

# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## SUPPORTING MICHIGAN'S WORKERS



Governor Whitmer is dedicated to helping working people thrive. During her time in office, she has delivered on the kitchen-table fundamental issues that matter most to working people and made real progress for unions. She's created 15,000 good-paying union auto jobs, established two programs to put hundreds of thousands of programs on a tuition-free path to higher education and skills training, launched a \$3.5 billion plan to fix roads statewide while creating 45,000 jobs, and a \$500 million plan to repair water infrastructure while creating 7,500 jobs.

### STATE GOVERNMENT

- Appointed more than 170 union members to boards, commissions, and full-time positions.
- Reinstated prevailing wage for all state contractors and subcontractors, ensuring working people are treated with the dignity they deserve, the state has highly-skilled labor to rely on to build up roads, bridges, pipes, high-speed internet, and more.
- Recognized the rights, struggles, and contributions of Michigan workers, including Worker's Memorial Day, Nurses Week, Professional Trades Month, Workplace Rights Week, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Essential Worker Appreciation Day.

### GOOD JOBS & TRAINING

- Reorganized the Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED) to the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) to streamline and better provide the connections, expertise and innovative solutions to drive business growth, build vibrant communities, create affordable housing, generate tourism and attract and retain key talent to fill Michigan's vast pipeline of opportunities.
- Created 15,000 good-paying auto jobs and counting, including the first auto plant in Detroit in nearly 30 years.
- Established and fully funded programs to provide hundreds of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training that leads to a high-skill, good-paying job.
  - Michigan Reconnect, a program that pays tuition of Michiganders 25 and up to pursue an associate degree or earn a skills certificate in high-demand careers.
  - Futures for Frontliners, providing a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic.
- Signed a directive to fight payroll fraud, ensuring companies can't misclassify their employees and deny them pay and benefits. Incentivized the state to increase contracts to companies that create good-paying jobs in Michigan and are good stewards of the state.
- Proposed MI New Economy plan to grow Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners, programs that put Michiganders on a tuition-free path to higher education and skills training.
- Called on the legislature to pass HB 4175 and 4176 which would repeal "Right to Work."



***"Michigan is home to the hardest working people in the world and because of their efforts, we became the arsenal of democracy, put the world on wheels, and built the middle class. As governor, I am committed to helping working people and unions thrive by delivering on the issues that matter most to them—from paying a fair wage, to securing tuition-free paths to in-demand careers, and creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs."***

**- Governor Gretchen Whitmer**

## COVID-19

- Saved lives statewide by taking decisive early action, with the pause over the 2020 holiday season, and in nursing homes.
- Gave a \$2/hour raise to direct care workers.
- Supported testing for vulnerable communities and high-risk populations including nursing homes, prisons, agricultural workers, adult foster care, and others.
- Ensured employees were protected from COVID-19 in the workplace by establishing enhanced MIOSHA protections. Provided employers education on the rules and offered them as many tools as they needed to help keep workers safe.
- Extended critical UIA benefits during COVID-19, helping families pay bills and put food on the table. Offered benefits to gig workers and others who might not have been eligible for benefits.
- Delivered \$2 per hour wage increase for direct care workers, increased it to \$2.35 per hour and made it permanent in the FY2022 budget.
- Called on the legislature to deliver Hero Pay for frontline workers.

## INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Launched the Rebuilding Michigan Plan, a \$3.5 billion bond plan that expands hundreds of major new road projects, building up our state highways and bridges over the next 5 years, without an increase at the pump.
  - In 2020, Michigan invested a total of \$1.984 billion in our roads. In 2021, that number is anticipated to reach \$3.57 billion.
  - In August 2021, the state closed on an additional \$800 million bond which includes funding for a \$120 million project on I-94 in Jackson County.
  - In September 2020, the first \$800 million bond was spent to cover the cost of rebuilding some of Michigan's most highly traveled freeways, including I-496.
  - Announced the first 21 state highway projects for the 2021 Michigan Department of Transportation construction season. The investment supports approximately 22,800 construction jobs in 2021 along with an additional 21,700 jobs in other industries.
- Invested \$196 million to repair or replace 100 local bridges in serious or critical condition, creating 2,500 jobs.
- Launched MI Clean Water, a \$500 million drinking and wastewater infrastructure plan supporting 7,500 good-paying jobs to address high water rates, lead-laden water service lines, toxic contaminants like PFAS, sewers that can't meet demand, and failing septic systems. Proposed a \$200M expansion to MI Clean Water to help communities remove lead service lines.
- In addition to MI Clean Water, invested millions in drinking water, stormwater, and waste water facilities across the state supporting thousands of local jobs.
- Invested more than \$45 million in electric vehicle charging infrastructure to build up Michigan's charging infrastructure network to over 1,000 electric vehicle charging stations.